

Derm Digest

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Animal Dermatology Clinic

Advancing the Art of Veterinary Dermatology

April 2012

Prevention Begins in Puppyhood: Coat & Skin Care

“Although many skin diseases like allergies cannot be prevented, routine bathing can lessen the severity and slow progression. It is important to start getting the new puppy used to getting regular baths,” says Dr. Melissa Hall of Animal Dermatology Clinic, Pasadena, California. In addition to lessening the severity of many skin and coat conditions, bathing can also help prevent the development of others, such as bacterial or yeast infections along the skin.

To introduce bathing to a pup, “Use lukewarm water and avoid spraying the face. Move slowly at first starting with the paws, to get the puppy used to the water. Don’t fill up the tub too high because you won’t want to overwhelm the puppy,” says Dr. Hall. Make it a fun experience and offer plenty of praise and other rewards. Introducing this experience now will help if your Lab, as an adult needs medicated bathing for the more serious medical condition - or from the occasional roll in the mud. Dr. Hall recommends bathing your dog at least once a month with shampoos made for dogs. “If your pet’s coat seems dry, there are now many great conditioners available.”

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New Doctor Joins Animal Dermatology Clinic

Welcome Dr. Frazer



Animal Dermatology Clinic is pleased to announce that Megan Frazer, DVM, Diplomate American College of Veterinary Dermatology has joined the group.

Dr. Frazer is a native of Southern California where she completed her undergraduate training. She was part of the charter veterinary class at Western University of Health Sciences. She then completed a small animal internship followed by a residency in dermatology. She completed her residency and achieved Diplomate status in 2011.

Dr. Frazer’s first dog growing up was a cockapoo with chronic ear infections. This introduced her to the challenges of veterinary dermatology. Her love of dermatology grew throughout veterinary school. She currently has two dogs, both with chronic allergies that she is managing. In her free time she enjoys reading and traveling.

Dr. Frazer will be seeing cases in our San Diego, CA clinic 858-560-9393 and at our new satellite location in Ontario, CA. Call 949-936-0066 for Ontario appointments. 🐾

Coat & Skin, *cont.*

Brushing keeps your pup's coat looking healthy and shiny. "For short coated dogs like Labradors, heavy brushing is not necessary. It helps to reduce shedding, but I recommend not to over brush." Too much pressing can actually cause skin trauma. "Avoid using too much pressure or brushing the same location over and over again, especially with the metal wire brush. It can become painful and irritating," says Dr. Hall. Introduce brushing with a gentle brush and light strokes. Do this every day. Over time, it establishes a bond between the two of you and establishes your role as the pack leader. It also teaches your pup to learn and stay still and accept your touch.

Of course, coat and skin care isn't just about grooming. Keeping your pup up-to-date with preventative medications to thwart unwelcome visitors is also important: "Fleas are not only a pest that cause increased itching, hair loss, and bacterial infections; they also carry other diseases and parasites like tapeworms. The majority of infectious diseases (from fleas and other parasites) are easily preventable with topical and environmental medications." Many medications are oral, and puppies are often not thrilled about the idea. To make it easier on your pup, wrap the pill in a treat such as a small piece of cheese.

Treats bring up another very important component to keeping your pup's skin and coat healthy, and it only requires your Lab's love of food: nutrition. According to Dr. Hall, "It is good to have a diet that is balanced for your dog's age and nutritional needs. It should have a good source of fatty acids like fish oil." Some dogs develop food allergies, so if your Lab's skin seems to be showing the problem and there are other symptoms such as diarrhea, make a visit to your vet.

"By taking an interest in your pup's coat and skin, you have the better chance to prevent infections and catch problems early to ensure a better response to veterinary therapy in the future," says Dr. Hall. 🐾

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Life Lessons Learned from a Dog



- If you stare at someone long enough, eventually you will get what you want.
- Always give people a friendly greeting. A cold nose in the crotch is most effective.
- Leave room in your schedule for a good nap.
- Be direct with people; let them know exactly how you feel by peeing on their shoes.
- When you do something wrong, always take responsibility (as soon as you're dragged shamefully out from underneath the bed).
- If it's not wet and sloppy it's not a real kiss.
- Those things in the litter box are not Almond Roca®

Source: *Pet Academy*



Therapy Dogs Encourages Children to Read “Tail Waggin’ Tutors”

Libraries are often a quiet place where both children and adults can research a topic or find a good story, but when children or adults visit a library and see a dog, the environment may become a little more exciting.

Therapy Dogs International’s “Tail Waggin’ Tutors” program encourages children to read by providing a non-judgmental listener and

furry friend to read to that won’t laugh at them if they make a mistake or stumble over a word, but rather lie next to them and enjoy the story being read to them.

The children learn to associate reading with being with the dog, and begin to view reading in a positive way. Over time, the child’s reading ability and confidence can improve because they are practicing their skills, which will make them enjoy reading even more.

Libraries have had great success by utilizing “Tail Waggin’ Tutors” as part of their Summer Reading Program or After-school Program. While the program was initially developed for struggling readers, even those who can already read well don’t want to pass up the chance to read to a Therapy Dog. Even the parents seem to get a real kick out of their child reading to a dog, and they certainly welcome the idea of their son or daughter being so excited to go to the library on a Saturday!

In a library, the reading sessions usually take place in a quiet, comfortable area. The child picks out a book that he or she would like to read, and sits down next to the dog and handler and start reading. (We often find that the book is one the child thinks the dog would enjoy!) The visits are often short, but the impact lasts longer than just the session, as the child may be more likely to read on his or her own.

Reading is a wonderful opportunity for a child to build his or her imagination and begin to build skills for his or her future. Libraries are a wonderful resource, and Therapy Dogs can be a great way to help children discover how much fun their local library can be!

Source: Therapy Dogs International

Pet pictures needed! Have you submitted a picture of your pet? Go to our site at www.animaldermatology.com and upload a picture into our Pet Gallery. We would love to have your pet included in the gallery! Problems uploading? Send a message via the Contact Page and we’ll upload it for you.

Pet Events in Your Area

The following events are listed for informational purposes only. Please contact the organization prior to attending as schedules may change without notice. Animal Dermatology Clinic has no affiliation with these events.

Dana Point, CA
Wag-A-Thon *We'll be there!*
Saturday April 28 8:30am - 1:00pm

The 19th Annual Wag-A-Thon is taking place in the beautiful Dana Point Harbor. Proceeds directly support the care and welfare animals sheltered at the San Clemente-Dana Point Animal Shelter. Demonstrations, children activities, 3K Walk-With-Your Dog, Bowser Bazaar and more!
 To register www.PetProjectFoundation.org

Lawrenceville, GA
Mark your calendars for PAWFest 2012!
May 5, 2012
10:00 am to 4:00 pm
Admission: FREE!
 Benefiting: Gwinnett Humane Society
 Pet Demonstrations - Tim Link—Animal Communicator - Kid's Activities - Purebred Rescue Groups - Therapy Dog Testing and Canine Good Citizen Testing - Food & Drinks - Low cost Vaccinations and Microchips - Silent Auction & Raffle - Vendors - Dog Contests(Best Costume, Look-A-Like, Largest Dog, Best Kisser, Best Trick)- PAWFest Pack Hike 5K hike & 1 mile walk **Please note Pack Hike begins at 9:30 AM, registration required** Leashed dogs welcome! Visit WWW.PAWFEST.COM for more information!
 For more information, call 770-798-7711, Line 7

Simi Valley, CA
April 29, 2012
10 AM to 3 PM
 Benefiting: American Cancer Society
 Canine Event to help take a bite out of Cancer! One Mile non-competitive walk in the park. K-9 demonstrations, Agility Course, Kids Corner with games and activities, Pet Photography and painting, Bark Avenue Fashion Show, Paw Prints, K9 Games and Contests. Fun afternoon in the park with your family and Canine helping to take a Bite out of cancer. All money raised goes to the American Cancer Society.
 For more information, please call 805-341-1910 or email BarkforlifeSV@gmail.com.

Indianapolis, IN
Mutt Strut *We'll be there!*
Saturday, April 28
 Indiana's biggest dog walk at the famous Indianapolis Motor Speedway. Walk the 2 ½ -mile oval with dogs and their owners to benefit the Humane Society of Indianapolis. Register as an individual or a team! Party on the Plaza featuring sponsors, vendors, food and fun giveaways. T-shirts for registered participants 8 years and older, while supply lasts.
 Go to indymuttstrut.org for registration and more information.

Louisville, KY
Dog Day at the Park
Monday, April 23, 6:35pm
 The ever popular Dog Days at the Park at Louisville Slugger Field! Hosted by the Louisville Bats, this fundraising event is for furry friends and the Kentucky Humane Society. Fans making a donation of \$3 per dog to the Kentucky Humane Society are able to sit with their pooch in our very own V.I.P (Very Important Puppies) section and receive a special doggie bag (1st 500 dogs). Tickets for humans are specially discounted at only \$6 per person. All dogs must remain on a leash at all times (no exceptions). The V.I.P sections are located in 101-104, Patio Deck, Overlook Deck & Bleachers. All owners must sign a Dog Day Release Form before entering the park.
 For tickets and more information see www.kyhumane.org/events/dog-day-at-the-park

Los Angeles, CA
Super Adoption
Saturday, April 28, 11am - 7pm
Sunday April 29, 11am - 5pm

La Brea Tar Pits, 5801 Wilshire Blvd. LA, CA 90036
 Come to the La Brea Tar Pits to adopt one of the many amazing pets that are in need of a home. Trying to find an outlet in life to relax or maybe just a companion to help you get all you can out of life.